REMARKS

After entry of the above amendments, claims 1-2, 4-6, 10-12, 14-17 and 20-24 are pending in this application. Applicants have canceled claims 3 and 13. Claims 1, 6, 10-11, 15-16 and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added. New claims 23-24 have been added. No new matter has been added. Amended independent claims 1 and 11 approximately correspond to original claims 1, 3 and 7 and 11, 13 and 18, respectively. Further support for the claim amendments and new claims may be found, for example, on pages 6-16 of Applicants' submitted specification and Figures 2-5.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 10-17 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Crater in view of Fleischman U.S. Patent No. 6,507,847. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In an exemplary embodiment, Applicants' FIG. 2 shows the web-based monitoring and control of a plurality of spatially distributed technical installations (e.g., remote control or monitoring devices) 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n, where a superordinate installation 1, called a client or web client, stores components that provide a uniform integral display S of the data/information in the distributed installations, combines the data/information into a uniform structure and displays them integrally in a user interface. The data/information interchange between the client 1 and the distributed installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n can be executed via communication links K and the web servers 2.1, 2.2, . . . 2.n that are present in the distributed installations 3.1, 3.2, . . .

3.n. The client 1 can be a typical web client with a web browser without any further special software.

FIG. 3 shows an exemplary overview of the architecture of the system. Using the communication links K, for example the Internet or an internal network, the web client 1 communicates with the web servers 2.1, 2.2, . . . 2.n of the distributed technical installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n. One or more applications 10 can be loaded into the web client 1 from a "home server" in a first installation 3.1, preferably upon operation for the first time and usually just once, for example as application programs for installation control with the associated user interfaces. The applications 10 use the communication links K to exchange data/information with the installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n and to request an integrated display S of the data from the installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n.

The applications 10 can use an integration layer 11, and connected representative services 12, 13, 14 on the client, which are known as proxies, and also the communication link K to communicate with the distributed installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n, for example in order to request data from the installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n or in order to transmit control signals to the installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n. The client proxies 12, 13, 14, which are typically provided for the client 1 to communicate with the installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n, are loaded from the appropriate web servers 2.1, 2.2 . . . 2.n of the distributed technical installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n and provide the communication link K between the client 1 and the web servers 2.1, 2.2 . . . 2.n of the installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n.

The client components, such as the proxies 12, 13, 14, the integration layer 11 and the client applications 10, are typically in the form of software components

which are loaded, automatically installed and executed using standard web mechanisms, such as Microsoft Active-X Controls, Microsoft NET components or Java Applets.

The communication between the client 1 and the installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n, particularly the data requests or data calls, can be executed using a web service or using SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) calls, for example.

The data/information in the installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n, which are described by objects, also called data objects, can be project data, measured values or states of the distributed installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n, for example, and are available in separate databases 21, 31, 41 in the installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n or are generated in real time, for example on the basis of the values measured by sensors. The data objects from the databases 21, 31, 41 are transmitted to the client 1 via the web server 2.1, 2.2, . . . 2.n of the respective installation 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n and the communication link K upon a request by the client 1.

The data objects stored in the databases 21, 31, 41 of the respective installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n can have references with pointers, known as system links, to data, structures and/or substructures for the other distributed installations 3.1, 3.2, . . . 3.n that are also called federated installations.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentably distinct from the cited references. For example, neither Crater nor Fleishman disclose or suggest the concept of a proxy component communicating with an integration layer in a client and web servers in distributed installations as claimed.

The remaining claims, which depend from claims 1 and 11 and recite additional distinguishing features, are also submitted to be patentably distinct from the disclosures of the references.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in immediate condition for allowance and all pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any questions about this application, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

If additional fees are required for any reason, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-4800 the necessary amount.

Respectfully submitted,

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